

日本経済学会 2014 年秋季大会 報告要旨

The Well-Being of Elderly Survivors after Natural Disasters: Measuring the
Impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake

東京大学大学院経済学研究科 菅野 早紀

Abstract

The Great East Japan Earthquake and resulting tsunami of March 11, 2011 had a devastating impact on the northeastern part of Japan. Using panel data from the Japanese Study of Aging and Retirement (JSTAR), this study examines how the elderly survivors reacted to the natural disaster by applying the Difference-in Difference approach. The results show that the subjective well-being level of survivors in Sendai city, the most populous city affected by the earthquake and tsunami, was not significantly affected, and they significantly increased in their consumption level of food and durable goods. Their depression level, measured by CES-D, also significantly declined. Economic recovery in Sendai city may have played an important role in buttressing the subjective well-being and mental health of survivors.